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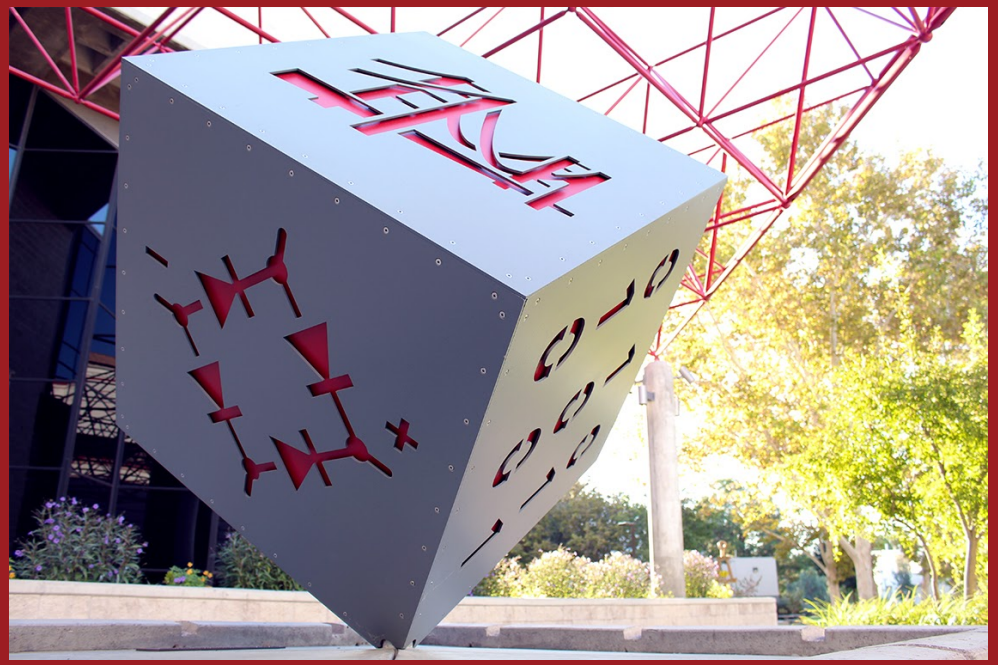

NASA Mentor-Protégé Program

Rama Venkat, Dean
Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering

January 2017

Educate, Engage, Inspire, Innovate

Mentor-Protégé Program

UNLV | Howard R. Hughes College of ENGINEERING

Mentor: Teledyne Brown, Huntsville, AL

Protégé: UNLV

Project: ISS Training Module Revamp

Period: August 2015- July 2016

UNLV Participants:

Colleges:

Engineering, Education and Fine Arts

Faculty:

Fatma Nasoz (CS)

Matt Bernacki (Edu)

Helga Watkins (GA)

Coordinators:

Jennifer Kennedy, Marian Mason

Contracts:

Rich Easter, Carmen Willis

Teledyne Brown Engineering Contacts:

Dr. Dwight Mosby

Nicole Pelfrey

The Good

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- **Enormous, constant and consistent support received from TBE (Nicole)**
- **UNLV Contracting (Rich)**
- **Additional financial support from UNLV and ARCATA Associates**
- **UNLV coordination (Jennifer and Marian)**
- **Creating a collaborative team consisting of an education person, a graphic design person, and a computer science person**
- **Teamwork among the partners**
- **Excellent positive attitude from all sides to make sure of success**

The Good

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- **Brainstorming ideas with each other, constantly revising and trying to make things better, always incorporating what the subject matter expert or client wants while adhering to our own expertise**
- **Valuable opportunity and experience for our students**
  - **Complete tasks under pressure, with deadlines, while focusing on providing the client with what they want**
  - **Individual contributor versus a collaborative team member**
- **Employment opportunities for our students**
- **UNLV's understanding of how to work with NASA and its contractors**

Challenges

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- Getting paid on time
- Housing
- Timesheets
- Access to laptops
- Access to certain programs
- What can be reimbursed travel costs
- Transporting personal vehicle
- Identifying the right and interested students
- Additional funds to take care of unreimbursed costs

Lessons Learned

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- **Recruiting well is more important than recruiting soon**
- **Establishing clarity about policies up front is challenging when many partners share leadership and responsibilities**
- **Having a clear understanding of the scope of work and project requirements is very important. During our first recruitment effort, we identified the required qualifications for the CS intern higher than what the project actually needed, which made recruitment harder for that round.**
- **Clear onsite organizational structure with a dedicated project manager with instructional design expertise (grad level)**
- **Ongoing monitoring from advisors in each of the expertise areas(CS, graphics, learning)… and communication between them**

Reasons for Success

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- **Recruiting students with complimenting skills**
- **Clear onsite organizational structure with a dedicated project manager with instructional design expertise (grad level)**
- **Ongoing monitoring from advisors in each of the expertise areas(CS, graphics, learning)… and communication between them**
- **Multi-disciplinary approach**
- **Positive can-do attitude from all sides**